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Coloration above light olive, with a metallic dorsal line visible only in life; below white. A lateral silver band well defined above only, where it is tinged with leaden. The latter becomes darker on the caudal peduncle. Muzzle and streak through eye and operculum, blackish. Lips yellowish.
From Holston River, near Saltville Va.

September 3d.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Twenty members present.

September 10th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Twenty-five members present.

The following was presented for publication :

"Description of a new species of Owl of the Genus *Scops*." By D. G. Elliot.

Dr. Leidy exhibited the fossil skull of a Gopher (*Geomys bursarius*), from the loess or yellow marl deposits along the Missouri. The specimen was sent for examination by Dr. Hayden, from Plattsmouth, Nebraska. The skull is partly embedded in a hard argillaceous substance and appears completely petrified. According to Dr. Hayden, in the same formation, teeth of Mastodon and Elephant were found.

Dr. Bridges on behalf of the publication committee, announced that Vol. 6, Part 2 of the Journal was ready for distribution.

September 17th.

MR CASSIN, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Thirteen members present.

The following was presented for publication :

"A study of the Rhamphastidæ or Toucans." By John Cassin.

Dr. Leidy submitted, for examination, an antique hammer of native copper, found in the Bohemian mine, Michigan, loaned for the purpose by Mr. W. H. Boyer through Mr. W. L. Mactier. It is of rude construction, apparently not cast, but partially cut and partially beaten into shape, which is that of an oblong square with irregularly pitted surfaces. It is about $3\frac{3}{8}$ in. long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ broad, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ wide, and weighs 1 lb. 14 oz. It has an irregular square hole through the centre of the lesser thickness, about large enough to insert the end of the thumb. The sides of the hole are very irregular. The square ends of the hammer are nearly level, though slightly rounded from use.

Dr. Leidy also exhibited a skull of the *Castoroides Ohioensis*, which had been recently sent him for examination by Prof. A. H. Worthen, State Geologist, of Springfield, Illinois. The specimen was found in ploughing, near Charleston, Coles county, Illinois. It is nearly perfect, with the exception of the loss of the zygomata and incisor teeth, and is remarkably well preserved, considering the position in which it was found. The worn condition of the teeth apparently indicates an older individual than the skull from northern New York, described by Prof. Wyman, though the suture between the basi-occipital and 1867.]

basi-sphenoid yet remains open, while it appears to be closed in the New York skull. The specimen is about the same size as the latter, its length being $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In addition to the two localities indicated, the remains of this most gigantic of all rodents, recent and extinct, have been found in New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana.

September 24th.

MR. CASSIN, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Sixteen members present.

Chas. H. Thomas, M. D., and A. G. Hincle, M. D., were elected members, and Rev. Alphonso Wood, Brooklyn, N. Y., was elected a correspondent.

On favorable report of the respective committees, the following were ordered to be published:

Additional Note on Dioicous forms of VITIS VINIFERA, L.

BY THOMAS MEEHAN.

On page 42 of the Proceedings of the Academy, I offered a few observations tending to show that the idea of De Candolle (since adopted by others), that Dioicousism was a peculiar attribute of the American species of *Vitis* and Hermaphroditism of the European was an error, and one which, as it had been adopted as a fact to divide the genus, ought to be corrected; and further, I suggested that the seedless grapes of Europe (currants) were probably pistillate forms. This has produced two letters from Dr. George Engelmann, of so much interest that, with his knowledge, I make the following extracts:

"It is a well known fact that *Vitis vinifera*, when running wild, as it occurs in different localities on the banks of the Rhine, becomes polygamous; and I have specimens of male plants in my herbarium. The berries are small, acerb, and dark bluish-black.

The same, I have learnt from Prof. Parlatore, of Florence, grows in the swampy region near Leghorn, and is as large a plant there as our largest *V. cordifolia* (or *viparia*),—a hundred feet high, and (stem) six or eight inches in diameter,—and is there yet called "Labrusca" by the natives,—the ancient name used also by Virgil and Pliny, showing the same plant to be wild (native or naturalized?) at their time. This is also said by Prof. Parlatore to be dioicous, or rather polygamous.

The number of seeds does not depend on the fertility of the plant, but on the size of the berry; thus our small berries, *V. cordifolia* (*viparia*), bear usually one or two seeds, rarely (if ever) more.

The question with me is whether the plant is ever properly dioicous? I have never found female plants. All that I could examine were either male or hermaphrodite, though the hermaphrodite may not be absolutely *perfect*,—that is, though the pollen is perfect, it may require the pollen of another (male or hermaphrodite) plant to fertilize it.

Has any one seen purely female plants?

Your hypothesis of the seedless currants I cannot share. If not impregnated, the fruit will come to nothing; but there are seedless varieties of different plants you know."

In another letter, in reply to some suggestions of mine, Dr. Engelmann adds: "I was too hasty in saying that a non-fertilized fruit would not ripen. Those with a fleshy calyx (epigynous) often do, without producing seeds; but of grapes I would doubt it. And, *moreover*, I do not know—and would like botanists to look to it—whether *female* flowers are found in *Vitis*! I find only complete, or male plants,—have never seen a purely female. If no one has, will they look out next season?"

[Sept.